

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 00483 120914Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

ACDA-07 OMB-01 /076 W

-----120948Z 015098 /12

R 120848Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4676

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0483

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA, KS, US, PFOR

SUBJ: ROK REBUFFED ON SECURITY CONSULTATIONS

1. JANUARY 8 ASAHI FEATURED REPORT FROM SEOUL CORRESPONDENT THAT ROK WOULD SEEK ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIPARTITE SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP WITH BOTH US AND JAPAN TO ENSURE MAINTENANCE OF POWER BALANCE ON PENINSULA IN EVENT OF US TROOP WITHDRAWAL. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED ROK DESIRE FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN ROK MILITARY AND JSDF. ASAHI NOTED THAT VERY FACT THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN OPENLY MENTIONED BY KOREANS, TRADITIONALLY WARY OF ANY HING OF REVIVED JAPANESE MILITARISM, INDICATED EXTENT OF KOREAN ANXIETY OVER TROOP WITHDRAWALS. IN COMMENTS TO JAPANESE PRESS, FONOFF DENIED ANY JAPANESE

SUPPORT FOR REPORTED ROK PROPOSAL, CHARACTERIZING IT AS "ILLOGICAL." FONOFF NE ASIA DIVDIR ENDO DESCRIBED PROPOSAL TO EMBOFF AS SOUTH KOREAN TRIAL BALLOON. WHILE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ROK WERE POSSIBLE, HE NOTED IT WOULD BE "ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE POLITICALLY" FOR JAPAN TO PARTICIPATE IN TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS ON SECURITY.

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3. JAPANESE PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT ROK FONMIN HAD DENIED VALIDITY OF ASAHI STORY IN SEOUL PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. APPEARANCE OF STORY ON TRIPARTITE SECURITY CONSULTATION COINCIDES WITH HEIGHTENED INTEREST ON PART OF ROK EMBASSY TOKYO IN DISCUSSING SECURITY MATTERS WITH US. IN CONTRAST WITH PREVIOUS CORDIAL BUT LIMITED CONTACTS, SOUTH KOREANS HAVE IN PAST WEEKS

SOUGHT OUT EMBOFFS AT VARYING LEVELS TO PROBE US THINKING IN REGARD TO HANDLING OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND US-ROK RELATIONS IN GENERAL. DURING RECENT LUNCHEON ROK POLITICAL COUNSELOR CHUNG ATTRIBUTED INCREASED ACTIVITY ON PART OF ROK EMBASSY HERE TO GENERAL ROK CONCERN ABOUT WITHDRAWAL ISSUE AND RELATIVE SILENCE OF THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE STATED THAT WASHINGTON EMBASSY'S CONTACTS HAD SHRUNK TO ONLY OFFICIAL CALLS ON DEPARTMENT COUNTERPARTS.  
HODGSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009